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FSC 7-1257

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

444

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: October 29, 1957

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 6/4/75
PER Executive OFFICE ARA
FADRC FOI CASE NO. SB-201

SUBJECT: Guatemalan Situation

PARTICIPANTS: Ambassador Sparks in Guatemala
ARA - Mr. Rubottom

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Am Embassy, Guatemala City
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Mr. Rubottom telephoned Ambassador Sparks in Guatemala regarding the situation there. Mr. Rubottom mentioned newspaper reports of participation in a meeting by Col. Dubbison, the U. S. Army Attaché and Lt. Col. Hetzel, the Air Force Attaché. Ambassador Sparks said that these two attachés did sit in on part of this meeting and referred Mr. Rubottom to two telegrams which the Embassy sent last night. Mr. Rubottom noted that these messages have not yet been received.

Mr. Rubottom expressed some concern about the two men sitting in on the meeting. Ambassador Sparks said he was concerned also, but that a full report would be in the two telegrams. He added that a primary reason for the attachés attending was a humanitarian one. The situation, Amb. Sparks said, was extremely tense at that time and could have degenerated into almost anything.

Mr. Rubottom said the fact that the two men were there would, of course, be interpreted as U. S. intervention in the local situation. Ambassador Sparks said he realized this, of course, and expected some criticism but feels it may be justified in the end.

Mr. Rubottom said as far as he could see there were three possibilities of what might now occur in Guatemala: (1) the man in the street (Ydigoras) could get what he wants; (2) some postponement of action could take place with the possibility of another election later; and (3) things could be left as they now stand with the Junta merely doing nothing for some while.

Ambassador Sparks said there was also a fourth possibility--the registration of all parties for new voting. He said there was considerable risk in allowing all parties to register and participate in a new election, and said the second of the two telegrams he had sent would discuss this whole situation.

LWS

ARA:RRubottom,Jr.:wjp 10/29/57

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INCOMING TELEGRAM **Department of State**

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Action ARA Info RMR SS G SP C L P UOP SCA SCS A OPR IRC

Control: 16945
Rcvd: 28 October 27, 1957
2:53 p.m.

FROM: USARMA Guatemala City, Guatemala

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 271720Z, October (Army Message)

SENT DEPTAR FORCES: STATE DEPARTMENT, USARCARIB, CINCARIB.

OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE

FOR RUBOTTOM

5-B-201 6/4/75

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Ydigoras accepted Junta decision. Told followers he had won great victory over MDN and Olivas and will win next election. Said he was tired and followers will be advised of future steps in few days.

Congress met at private house last night and installed Flores Avendano as Provisional President. Flores sworn in about midnight and stated will remain in power until newly elected president sworn in. Congress apparently to meet today to begin process of annuling recent election and set date etc. for next one.

City calm but expectant. Believe 24 hours truce, rain and weariness of all concerned responsible for present calm. Olivas leaving for Nicaragua this morning.

AAL:MLJ/5

NOTE: Mr. King (MID) informed 3:30 p.m., 10-27-57, CWQ-FED.

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